

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 IOE-00 SCI-06

HEW-08 AID-20 OIC-04 DRC-01 /160 W

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P 061821Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9726

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13783

NESCO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 94TH EXBD: SUMMARY OF WORK OF PX COMMISSION
MAY 29 - JUNE 1

1. SUMMARY.

PX COMMISSION STARTED AFTERNOON MAY 29 DEVOTING FIVE SESSIONS TO DISCUSSION EDUCATION SECTOR INCLUDING GOOD INTRODUCTORY AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS BY ADG FOR EDUCATION M'BOW. IN SATURDAY MORNING SESSION ADG FOR SCIENCE HARRISON GAVE BRIEF ORAL INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION STARTED ON SCIENCE SECTOR. END OF SUMMARY.

2. INITIAL PX COMMISSION BUSINESS WAS AGENDA ITEM

4.4.4 INVITATION TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL POLICIES IN AFRICA. PROPOSED DR IN 94 EX/21 WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH POSITION PAPER USDEL STATED THAT HAD WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A SEPARATE VOTE ON INVITATION OF GUINEA-BISSAU WE WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE FUTURE STATUS OF GUINEA-BISSAU UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. FRANCE AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ADDED SAME EXPLANATION OF VOTE.

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3. ADG M'BOW'S ORAL INTRODUCTION ELICITED FAVORABLE

COMMENTS FROM ALL BOARD MEMBERS FOR ITS GOOD OVERVIEW, CONCISENESS AND TO THE POINT MANNER. HIS INTRODUCTION GENERALLY STRESSED CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AS HAD ALSO BEEN STRESSED OVERALL IN DG'S INTRODUCTION TO 18 C/5, PLUS AN UNDERLYING CONCERN WITH DEMOCRATIZATION AND REGENERATION OF EDUCATION, AND ESPECIALLY WITHIN CONTEXT OF LIFE-LONG EDUCATION. A RECURRING THEME THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DEBATE ON EDUCATION SECTOR AND IN M'BOW'S SUMMING UP, HOWEVER, WAS A CONCERN WITH HOW TO TRANSLATE THESE "NOTIONS" ON LIFE-LONG EDUCATION INTO REALITY AND BEYOND RHETORIC.

4. MOST MEMBERS, INCLUDING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FAVORED PROGRAMS PROPOSED UNDER SUB-CHAPTER 1.1 PLANNING AND FINANCING OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING IIEP. U.S. COMMENTS REGARDING IIEP'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER RELATED UNESCO UNDERTAKINGS, MORE INNOVATIVE TRAINING TECHNIQUES AND ADDRESSING LIFE-LONG AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION, ELICITED MANY NODS AROUND THE TABLE.

5. U.S. DEL INTERVENTION ON REGIONAL CONFERENCES, FOLLOWING POSITION PAPER POINTS, ALSO SUGGESTING GREATER SENSITIZING OF UNESCO PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS TO SPECIAL NEEDS AND CONSTRAINTS OF 25 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND TO EQUALITY OF EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, ALSO DREW FORTH SEVERAL AFFIRMATIVE COMMENTS. THIS, PLUS ILLUSTRATING REMARKS WITH FIRST HAND OBSERVATIONS ON FIELD ACTIVITIES, PLUS ANECDOTES ON FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE EXPERIENCES WITH THE MOVE TO "NEW" TYPE OF POLICY AND DIALOGUE TYPE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND THE NEED GENERALLY TO IMPROVE UNESCO'S RESPONSE CAPABILITIES LED ZAMBIA MEMBER TO INTERVENE AT LENGTH ON "FRIENDS" VIEWS AND ON VALUE OF EX BOARD HAVING BENEFITS OF SUCH KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVATIONS. SIMILAR COMPLIMENTS WERE GIVEN IN CORRIDOR BY MEMBERS FROM GHANA AND ETHIOPIA.

6. THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING THAT REGIONAL OFFICES SHOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED AND THAT DECISION-MAKING POWER SHOULD BE FURTHER DECENTRALIZED AND HIGH QUALITY UNCLASSIFIED

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PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO REGIONS. STRONG FEELING STATED BY MOST DEVELOPING MEMBERS WAS THAT GREATER USE SHOULD BE MADE OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS FOR STUDIES, RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

7. UNDER SUB-CHAPTER 1.2 CURRICULA, STRUCTURES AND METHODS OF EDUCATION, MEMBER STATES FROM SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ZAMBIA, ETHIOPIA, KENYA) QUES-

TIONED USE OF HIGHLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WHEN RESOURCES
WERE LIMITED. SEVERAL SPEAKERS (U.S., JAPAN, ETHIOPIA,

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FRG) QUESTIONED THE PLACING OF TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION WITHIN PRE-UNIVERSITY SCIENCES, TECHNOLOGY
AND EDUCATION.

CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR LITERACY PROGRAM WAS EXPRESSED
BY MOST MEMBERS, WITH LITERACY BEING VIEWED AS A COMPLEX
PROBLEM INVOLVING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL FACTORS. IT WAS GENERALLY THOUGHT NECESSARY
FOR EACH COUNTRY TO STUDY TYPES OF ACTIVITIES IT NEEDED
TO RECTIFY THIS PROBLEM. USSR REPRESENTATIVE REFERRED
TO SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO ERADI-
CATE ILLITERACY AND ESPECIALLY SUGGESTED MEMBERS LOOK
AT SUCCESSFUL CUBAN EXPERIENCE. M'BOW FELT CRUCIAL
FACTOR FOR AN EFFECTIVE LITERACY PROGRAM IS POLITICAL
COMMITMENT AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS.

8. UNDER SUB-CHAPTER 1.3 - HIGHER EDUCATION AND
TRAINING OF EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL, REPRESENTATIVES FROM
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GENERALLY COMMENDED SECRETARIAT
FOR SERVICES PROVIDED. ALL SPEAKERS STRESSED IMPORTANCE

OF TRAINING APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL TO CON-
CEIVE, PLAN AND CARRY OUT EFFECTIVE REFORMS AND EX-
PANSION OF FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.
LATIN AMERICAN AND ARAB STATE MEMBERS JOINED U.S. IN
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RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT DISPROPORTIONATE
SUPPORT GIVEN BUCHAREST CENTER AS COMPARED TO DEVELOPING
REGIONS. HOWEVER RE UNESCO SUPPORT TO COMPARABILITY
AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF STUDIES AND
DEGREES, AND TO IBE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL BACCA-
LAUREATE OFFICE, U.S. WAS ALONE IN QUESTIONING UNESCO'S
SPONSORSHIP.

9. FULL DISCUSSION OF UN UNIVERSITY WAS POSTPONED
UNTIL AGENDA ITEM 7.1 BUT ARGENTINA MEMBER MADE LONG
INTERVENTION REGRETTING 93 EXBD ACTION WHICH MINIMIZED
UNESCO INVOLVEMENT IN FORMATION OF UN UNIVERSITY. HE
WANTED FULL INFORMATION ON WHAT HAD AND WILL TAKE PLACE
REGARDING OF FORMATION OF COUNCIL AND SELECTION OF
RECTOR. SIMILAR INTEREST EXPRESSED BY JAMAICA, FRANCE
AND CANADA.

10. REGARDING PARAGRAPH 1550 AND PROPOSED NEW
COST ITEM FOR UNESCO TO PARTICIPATE IN COSTS OF PLACING
FELLOWSHIPS IN SIX COUNTRIES (U.S., FRANCE, FRG, ITALY,
JAPAN, SWITZERLAND) ETHIOPIA WONDERED ABOUT PROPRIETY
OF SUCH UNESCO CONTRIBUTIONS. FRANCE FELT THAT ISSUE
SHOULD NOT EVEN HAVE BEEN RAISED AND CERTAINLY NOT IN
WAY PRESENTED IN 18 C/5 POINTING ACCUSING FINGER AT
SIX COUNTRIES. FRG WANTED MORE INFORMATION ON NUMBERS
OF FELLOWSHIP HOLDERS AND TOTAL COSTS. U.K. (WHICH
DOES NOT CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE) WON-
DERED PRIVATELY WHAT BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE IF
ALL MEMBER STATES FOLLOWED THE PRACTICE OF THE SIX
CHARGING FEES. U.S. POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE WORKING
OUT A NEW SYSTEM WITH UNESCO AND THAT IT APPEARED THAT
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMING SERVICES COULD BE PROVIDED
UNESCO AT NO COST (RE STATE 109978). ADG DESCRIBED
DIFFICULTIES FOLLOWING UNDP DECISION NOT
TO ALLOW FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT COSTS TO BE CHARGED TO
PROJECTS, AND TO CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT WITH PERMDELS
OF SIX COUNTRIES WHICH CHARGE FEES. HE MADE SPECIAL
POINT OF PRAISING U.S. FOR ITS UNDERSTANDING OF SITUA-
TION AND ITS POSITIVE ACTION IN WORKING OUT SOLUTION.
IRWIN

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